

**Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling  
March 10, 2016 Meeting  
9:30AM – 3PM  
700 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Recognition of New Commission Member: Rev. James Patterson

Recognition of Terri Teutsch for her service on the Commission

Roll Call: Hoffman, Holt, Canada, Anselmo, Leckband, Lutz, Scoville – Present

Moment of silence

Approve changes to order of presentation of items on the Agenda due to loss of Quorum after 12pm. The Commission will hear item 7 followed by items 8,9,10 and 11 and then take up item 6. Motion – Leckband, 2<sup>nd</sup> - Anselmo; Unanimous

Minutes of the meeting of December 18, 2015, were approved as submitted. Motion to approve by Canada; second by Bruder. Vote to approve was unanimous.

Notice of the meeting and the agenda were posted as follows: State events calendar on February 18, 2016; Commission on Problem Gambling website and Department of Revenue Division of Charitable Gaming website on March 3, 2016. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is available to the public on the table along with copies of materials that are distributed to Commissioners during the meeting.

**The Commission heard a presentation by Professor Aaron Duncan, UNL Department of Speech and Communication who discussed his research and recent book “Gambling and the American Dream” -**

- Professor Duncan described a class project he has asked his students to conduct about theories of persuasion in the topics of gambling and problem gambling, and will be working with GAP to address the perspective of young people and how they think about gambling, and ways to address problem gambling as a public health issue.
- The project will focus on ways to reframe the public discussion of gambling.
- The University of Nebraska will require documents to be signed regarding the ownership and use of intellectual property generated by Professor Duncan and UNL students.
- Motion to approve agreement to requirements by UNL for this project. Moved by Bruder; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scoville. Approved by unanimous vote.

**Approve actions of the Executive Committee -**

Kit Johnson and Vicki Lawton – approve two new provisional therapist certificates based on recommendations of the Certification Advisory Board. Motion to affirm the action of the Executive Committee by Bruder; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Holt. Affirmed by unanimous vote of the Commission.

Motion to affirm the action of the Executive Committee authorizing issuance of contracts in the amount of \$12,000 each to Kit Johnson and Vicki Lawton. Motion by Hoffman, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Holt.

After discussion, a friendly amendment was offered by Bruder; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scoville, to give the Director discretion to reallocate funds between the categories of therapy services and problem gambling messages and to make this applicable to all new contracts issued to the individual provisional certificate holders, as needed. With the amendment the motion to affirm the action of the Executive Committee authorizing issuance of contracts to Johnson and Lawton, and to give the Director discretion to reallocate contract award amounts between the two

categories in all of the new provisional therapist contracts was approved by unanimous vote.

Motion by Hoffman to approve the actions of the Executive Committee authorizing increases in the amount of contract awards for Choices, Spence Counseling, Ron Felton and Panhandle. The motion was seconded by Canada. VOTING AYE: Hoffman, Holt, Leckband, Canada, Lutz, Anselmo, Bruder; NAY: Scoville. Motion passed.

### **Midwest Conference –**

The director presented a proposal to add to the training contract with the Nebraska Council on Compulsive Gambling an allowance for additional funding up to a total of \$15,000 for continuing education of certified therapists. The funding would provide scholarships in the amount of \$500 each for up to 30 certified therapists to attend the Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse that will be held in Kansas City in June. Training therapists is a statutory obligation of GAP. Our program requires 25 hours of CEUs annually. The Midwest Conference, with national and international speakers and training sessions is worth 15 CEUs. Moved by Hoffman to add provision to the Nebraska Council training contract; Second by Holt. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

### **National Council on Problem Gambling Membership –**

The director presented a request to approve payment of the annual membership fee of the National Council on Problem Gambling at a cost of \$1750, applying as a non-profit government agency. Moved by Holt to approve the membership fee, seconded by Scoville. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

### **Supervisor Contract and Standards**

The director asked the Commission to authorize the Executive Committee to consider for approval the propose contracts for clinical therapy supervisors to work with provisional certificate holders. The Executive Committee will also be asked to consider a contract Kate Speck at UNL Public Policy Center to help GAP Director develop the

standards for the terms of supervision with forms and documentation and also develop means to conduct distance supervision using audio/visual technology. The Commission expressed their consensus to move development forward.

### **Director's Report -**

**Financial** – Director reviewed Budget Status Report and other accounting reports with Commission. These show that GAP is at or below budget. The Gamblers Assistance Fund held \$1.7M two years ago and General Cash is now \$1.480; GAP has spent \$300,000 of the surplus. Revenue coming in to the Gamblers Assistance Fund appears to be below projections. If the remainder of this fiscal year follows this trend, the balance in the Fund will decline more rapidly than has been anticipated meaning that the need to find sustainable funding for the program will be more urgent.

**Legislative** – The director reported on staff involvement in the proposed Daily Fantasy Sports online gambling bill that was debated this session. The racino petition drive does include provision for problem gambling funding. The staff is developing proposals to obtain more funding from the Division of Charitable Gaming to reflect the fact that keno should be contributing more than \$50,000 annually since keno is responsible for significant share of problem gamblers.

**Programs** – Keelia Guevara of Heartland Family Service reported on the status of development of the workplace toolkit with materials for businesses and employers informing about problem gambling.

Next Meeting Date: May 20, 2016

ADJOURN